WANTED: BETTER SEARCH RESULTS

SDLA 2011 Poster Session

Stop and Think
- what do you need?
- what is your purpose?
- where would be the best place to start?
- what do you already know?

Strategy
- What kind of guidance do you provide your students when assigning research topics?
- Library databases may provide better information faster than starting with Google
- Provide a list of resources useful for specific assignment
- For example: State Library online resources (http://library.sd.gov >> Online Resources) provide access to lexile leveled non-fiction and fiction articles, suggested websites and more.)

Visualize
- Imagine the answer, not the results
- Search for the terms and phrases that would appear in the answer

Google
- Useful for:
  - Newly updated information (how many gold medals the US has won during the Olympics)
  - Local information (event that is occurring in your community this weekend)
- Advanced search:

Wikipedia
- Provides links to "official site" in sources cited

Bibliography
- Mine the sources cited for additional articles

State Library Resources (http://library.sd.gov >> Click Online Resources)
- Subscription resources: vetted, safe, authoritative
- Access available inside all schools, public libraries and academic institutions
- At home access available with library card

Elementary/Middle
- World Book Encyclopedia for Schools (Kids and Student)
  - Source for general background information and term gathering
- SIRS Discoverer
  - Selected full-text magazine articles

Middle/High
- World Book Encyclopedia for Schools (Advanced)
  - Ebooks, primary source documents and encyclopedia articles
- SIRS Issues Researcher
  - Selected full-text magazine articles, research guides for popular topics
- Proquest
  - Journals

Credibility
- Judging credibility: RADCAB
- Domain—isn't a reliable guide. Hoax sites may use .org

Tips and Tricks to apply everywhere
- Advanced search
- Quotation marks
- Boolean (AND/OR/NOT)—often easy to construct in Advanced search view

Additional Search Resources:
- Bergson-Michelson, Natasha. "Search Engine Results as the First Defense of Authority. "*Knowledge Quest* 38.3 (2010): 9-13.(free online here: http://tothepointresearch.com/publications/predict)
- Bergson-Michelson, Natasha . "Wikipedia as a Steppingstone Resource." *To the Point Research.* 24 May 2010. (http://searchme.typepad.com/search-me/2010/05/wikipedia-as-a-steppingstone-resource.html)
- Boolean machine (http://kathyschrock.net/rbs3k/boolean/)
  - Visualize the effect of Boolean operators on a search
- Predictive search webinars (https://sites.google.com/site/gwebsearcheducation/invitation-to-next-webinar)
  - Webinars are archived. Tasha Bergson-Michelson will be presenting some upcoming sessions.
- *RADCAB* (http://www.radcab.com/) "Your vehicle for information evaluation"
  - Includes link to RADCAB rubric for information evaluation
- Teaching the Ten Steps to Better Web Research by Dulcinea Media (http://www.slideshare.net/sweetsearch/teaching-the-ten-steps-to-better-web-research)
  - Where to search
  - Try several searches
  - Dig deep for best results
  - Think before you search
  - Make search engines work for you
  - Question—don't believe everything you read!
  - Primary sources
  - Verify source—who published?
  - Why was article written
  - When was information written/last revised?
- Valenza, Joyce . "I hope you'll search (with skill): a revised letter to my grads." Never Ending Search. (http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/neverendingsearch/2011/06/08/i-hope-youll-search-with-skill-a-revised-letter-to-my-grads/)
- "Websites to Validate" by Alan November (http://novemberlearning.com/resources/information-literacy-resources/iii-websites-to-validate/)